



STORY & ART BY
REI HIROE

PARENTAL ADVISORY
**EXPLICIT
CONTENT**





Dutch

SKIPPER OF THE OF THE BLACK LAGOON AND LEADER OF THE CREW. DUTCH STAYS COOL NO MATTER HOW BAD THINGS GET. HIS BACKGROUND INCLUDES MILITARY SERVICE, INCLUDING A TOUR IN VIETNAM.

Benny

THE MAN IN CHARGE OF THE HIGH-TECH ELECTRONICS ONBOARD THE BLACK LAGOON. BENNY ESCAPED FROM THE U.S. AND IS ON THE RUN FROM BOTH THE FBI AND THE MAFIA.

Crew of the Black Lagoon

Rock

A FORMER JAPANESE SALARYMAN, WHOSE REAL NAME IS ROKURŌ OKAJIMA. ABANDONED BY HIS COMPANY AFTER THE CREW OF THE BLACK LAGOON ABDUCTED HIM, ROCK LATER JOINED HIS CAPTORS.

Revy

THE BLACK LAGOON'S TOP GUNSLINGER, NICKNAMED "TWO HAND." HER FOUL MOUTH AND EXTREMELY SHORT FUSE USUALLY GET HER IN LOTS OF TROUBLE.

STORY

ROCK, FORMERLY KNOWN AS ROKURŌ OKAJIMA, WAS A FACELESS EMPLOYEE AT A LARGE JAPANESE COMPANY. ON A BUSINESS TRIP HE WAS ABDUCTED AND HELD FOR RANSOM BY THE CREW OF THE *BLACK LAGOON*. SHOCKED AND ANGERED WHEN HIS BOSSES CALLOUSLY THREW HIM TO THE WOLVES IN ORDER TO SAVE THEIR OWN SKINS, ROCK DECIDED TO CHANGE COURSE IN LIFE AND JOINED THE CREW OF THE *BLACK LAGOON*.

A YEAR LATER ROCK, ALONG WITH REVV AS HIS BODYGUARD, RETURNS TO HIS HOMETLAND AS AN INTERPRETER FOR BALALAIKA, WHO INTENDS TO CARVE OUT A NICHE IN THE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD THROUGH AN ALLIANCE WITH THE WASHIMINE-GUMI. ROCK BEFRIENDS YUKIO, WHO HAPPENS TO BE THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE WASHIMINE'S LATE BOSS. WHEN THE AGREEMENT BREAKS DOWN, ROCK AND YUKIO ARE FORCED TO MAKE A TERRIBLE CHOICE IN THE MIDST OF A BLOODY GANG WAR!!



Yukio Washimine

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AND THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF THE WASHIMINE-GUMI'S LATE BOSS. SUCCEEDS HER FATHER TO SAVE THE FAMILY.



Chaka

LOW-LEVEL WASHIMINE THUG AND WANNABE GUNMAN.



Balalaika

BOSS OF THE THAI BRANCH OF 'HOTEL MOSCOW,' A NOTED RUSSIAN CRIMINAL GANG. BALALAIKA ONCE WAS A CAPTAIN IN THE RED ARMY OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.



Ginji Matsuzaki

YAKUZA ENFORCER ONCE KNOWN AS 'MANSLAYER GINJI.' FEELING INDEBTED TO YUKIO'S FATHER, HE HAS CONTINUED TO WATCH OVER HER.

BLACK LAGOON



STORY & ART BY
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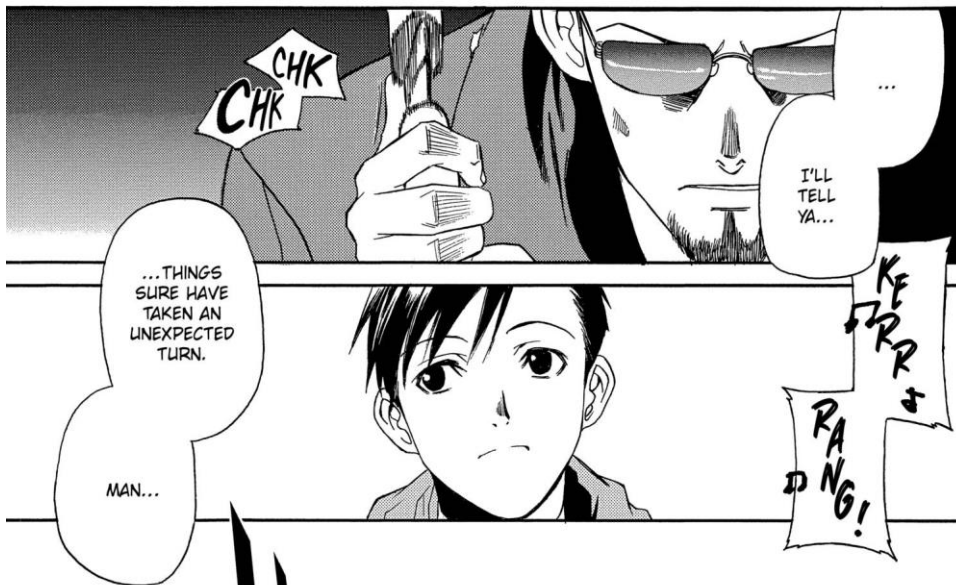
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MR.
GINJI.

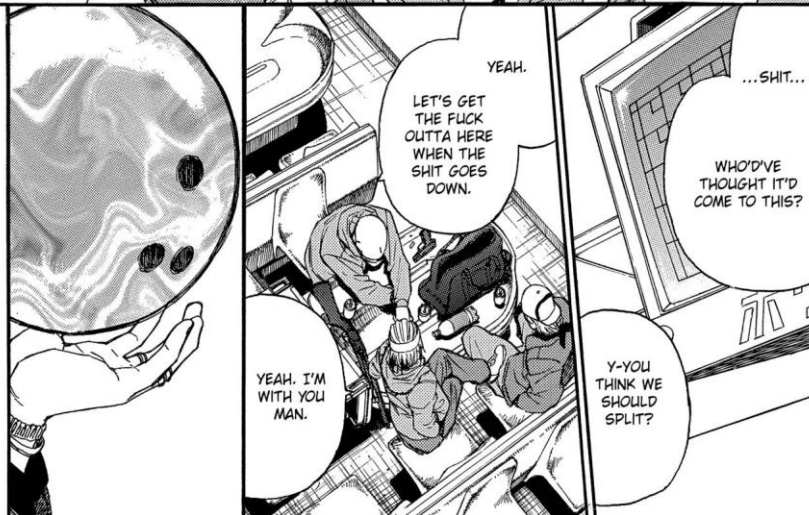
I CAN'T HELP
THINKING SHE
DOESN'T
BELONG IN
ALL THIS.

SHE SHOULD
BE LIVING A
NORMAL LIFE.













HUH?

WHAT
THE FUCK,
BITCH?



DON'T GIMME
THAT LOOK.



GRRP

ONCE WE
TAKE CARE OF
THAT SAMURAI
ASSHOLE, WE'LL
FIND A BUYER
FOR YOU. I
KNOW JUST
THE GUY...



CAN'T GET IT
UP UNLESS IT'S
SOME HARDCORE
SSM SHIT.

DUDE'S HIGH
ON X ALL
DAY LONG.



HUH?

GONNA
DOPE YOU
UP TOO...

HAVE YOU
SHAKIN' YOUR
ASS EVERY DAY,
EATIN' HIS
SHIT...

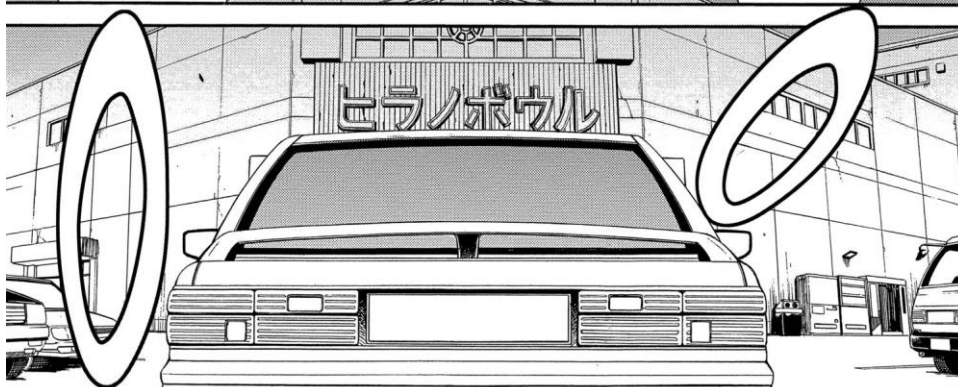


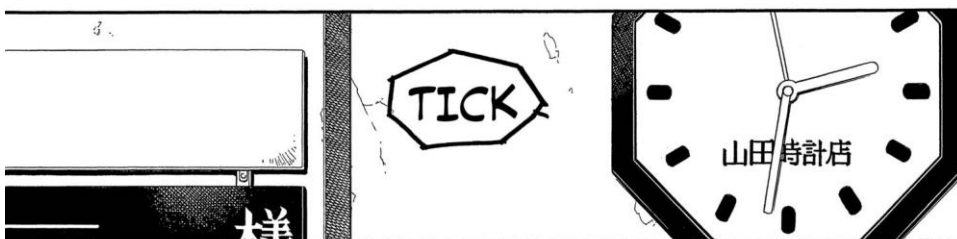
YANK

YOU SEEM
AWFULLY
POISED AFTER
ALL THAT SHIT
WE PUT YOU
THROUGH.

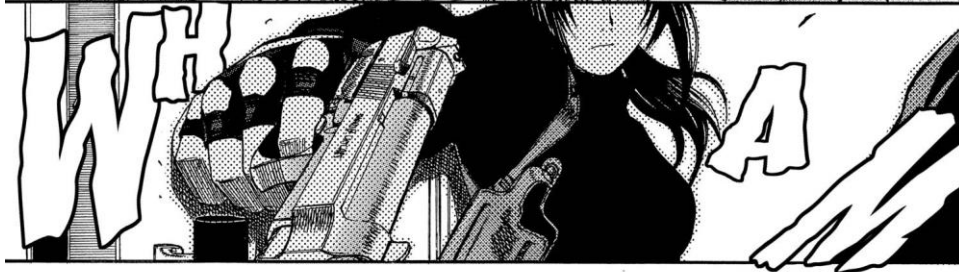
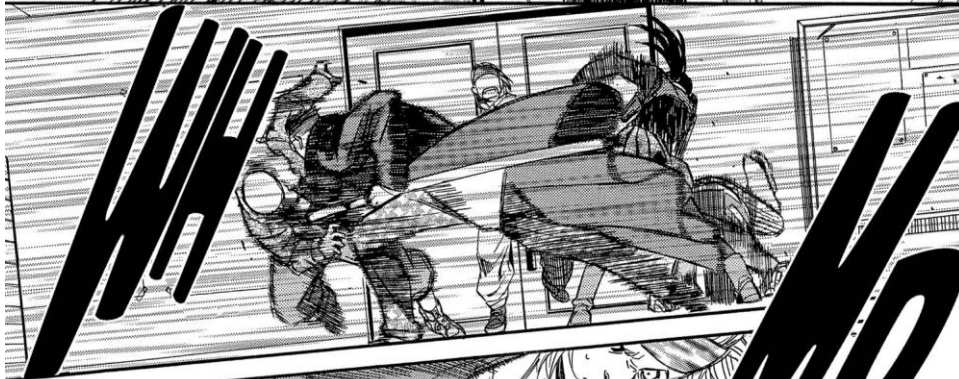
HUH?

YEAH THAT'S
RIGHT, GO
AND KEEP
PATRONIZING
US LIKE THAT.

















**Chapter 31:
Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Pt. X**



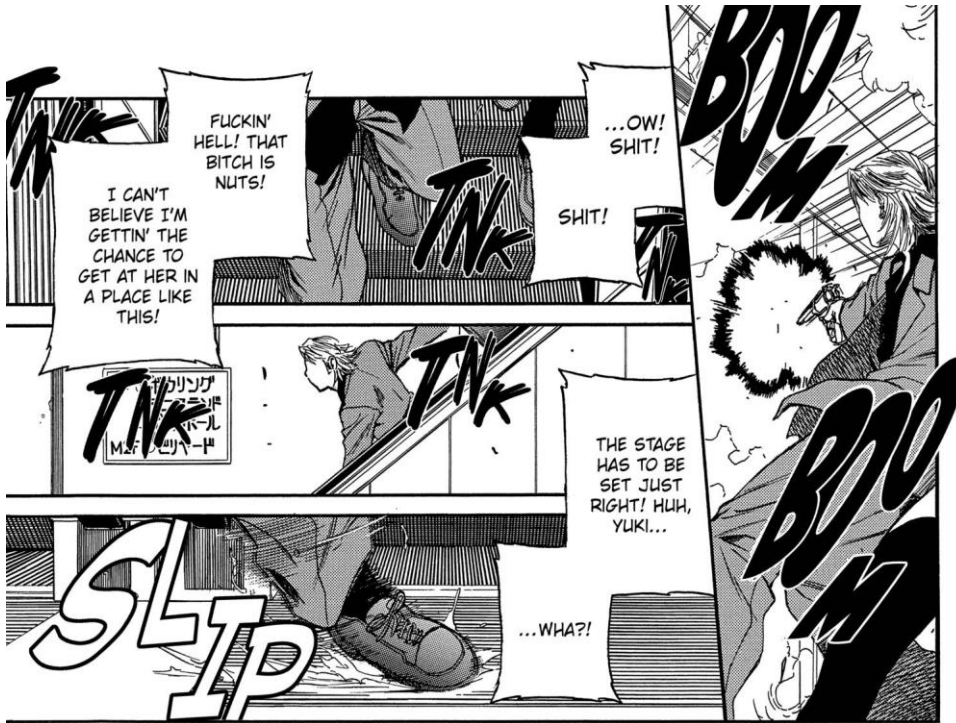










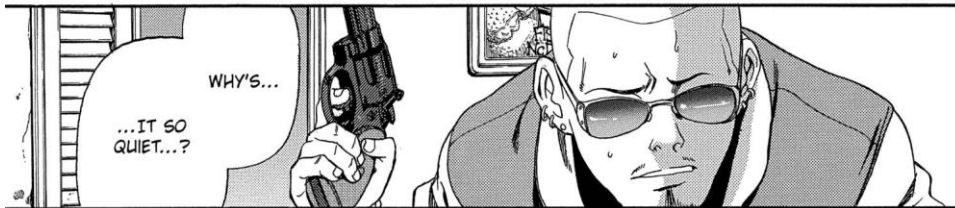






















SORRY TO KEEP YOU
WAITING, JUMBO.

I BROUGHT
YOU YOUR
PROM DATE.



...AIN'T
THAT
RIGHT?

...A
CUNNING
LITTLE DOG
LIKE YOU...

...WOULD NEVER
THROW AWAY
HIS MEAL
TICKET.

YOUR
LITTLE
SKANK IS
GONE, MAN.
I SHOT
HER.

AW
MAN, YOU
AGAIN?

THERE'S
NOTHIN' FOR YOU
TO DO HERE SO
GO GRILL SOME
TAKOYAKI OR
WHATEVER.

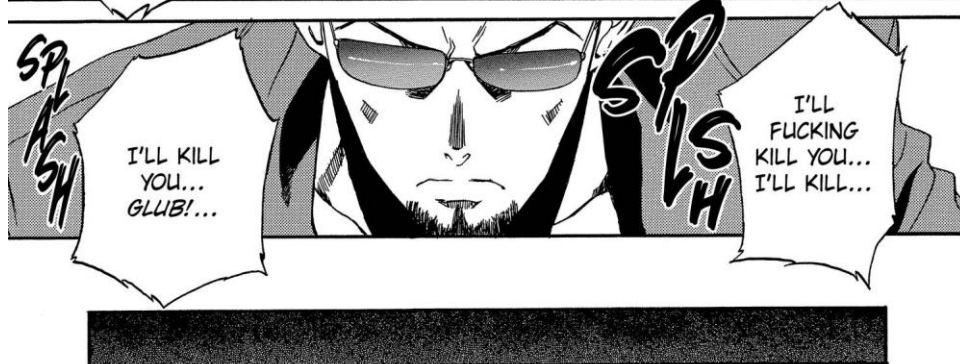
KCHK















I'M RIGHT
IN THE
MIDDLE OF
ALL THIS...

Chapter 32: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Pt. XI

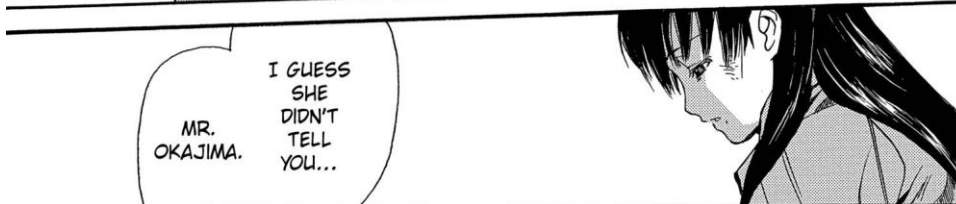
AND
YOU...



...ARE MY
ENEMY.



...YUKIO-
CHAN...
WHAT ARE
YOU-



I GUESS
SHE
DIDN'T
TELL
YOU...
MR.
OKAJIMA.



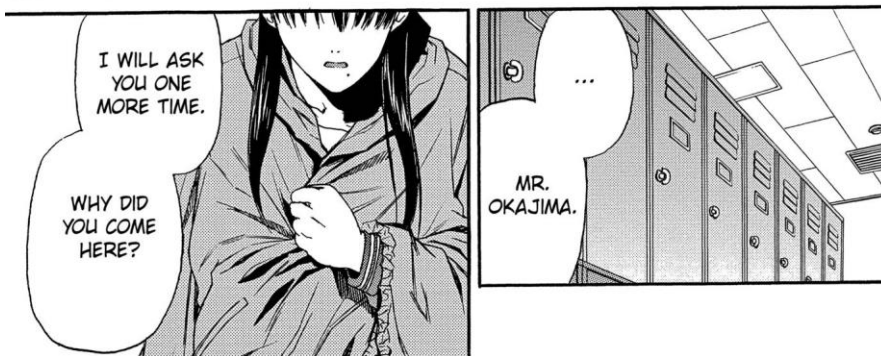
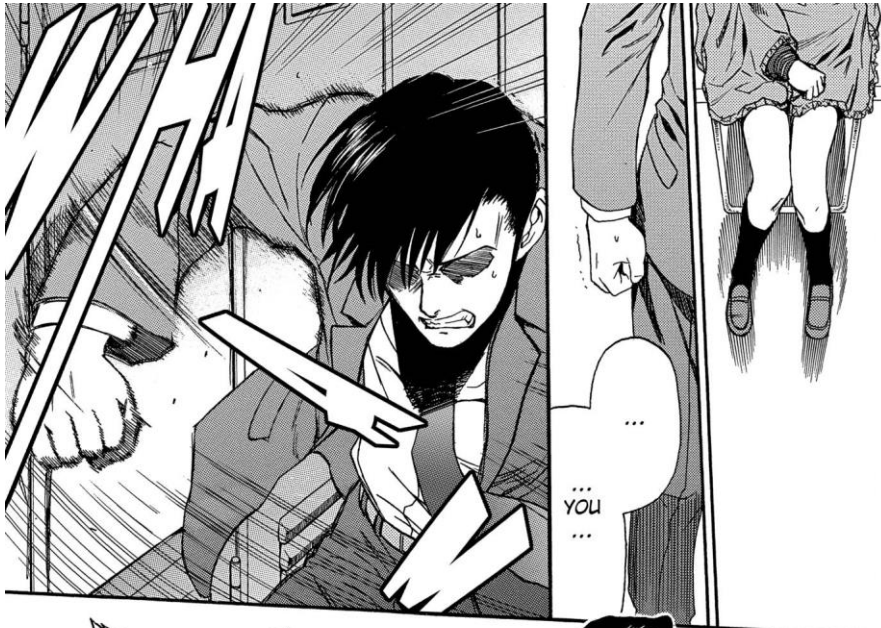
RIGHT
NOW, I
AM...

...THE
WASHIMINE-GUMI'S
HIGHEST
AUTHORITY.



I...
I HAVE
SUCCEEDED
AS THE
WASHIMINE-
GUMI'S 14TH
GRAND
LEADER.

IN
OTHER
WORDS
...





...DRAGGED
INTO THIS.

I TOLD
YOU.

I COULDN'T
STAND TO
SEE YOU...



IT WAS MY
DECISION.

MR.
OKAJIMA.

THAT'S
RIGHT.



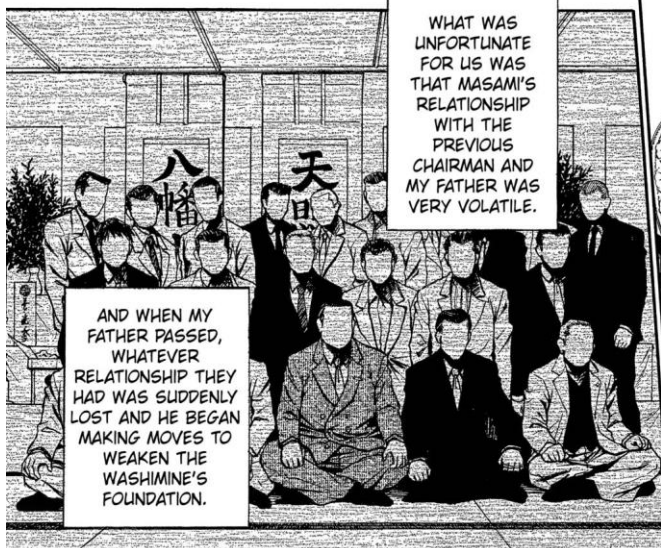
MY FATHER AND
THE KOSA KAI'S
PREVIOUS
CHAIRMAN WERE
FRIENDS.

THEY KNEW EACH
OTHER SINCE THE
DAYS OF THE BLACK
MARKETS AFTER THE
WAR. THEY WERE
SWORN FRIENDS
THAT SURVIVED
THROUGH IT ALL.

THE CHAIRMAN WAS
VERY KIND TO ME.
MY MOTHER WAS
STILL ALIVE. IN
THOSE DAYS
EVERYTHING
WAS...PEACEFUL.

SHALL I
START
FROM THE
BEGINNING
?

IT'S A
LONG
STORY...



WHAT WAS UNFORTUNATE FOR US WAS THAT MASAMI'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PREVIOUS CHAIRMAN AND MY FATHER WAS VERY VOLATILE.

AND WHEN MY FATHER PASSED, WHATEVER RELATIONSHIP THEY HAD WAS SUDDENLY LOST AND HE BEGAN MAKING MOVES TO WEAKEN THE WASHIMINE'S FOUNDATION.



THAT ALL CHANGED FIVE YEARS AGO.

THE CHAIRMAN PASSED AWAY AND HIS BROTHER, MASAMI KOSA, WAS NAMED THE NEW CHAIRMAN.



NOT ONLY WERE WE LOWERED IN THE SAKAZUKI* HIERARCHY, THEY ASSIGNED US THEIR REPRESENTATIVE AND THE KUMI WAS DRIVEN TO THE POINT WHERE IT WAS UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THE ORGANIZATION.

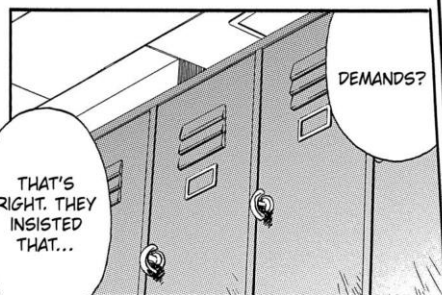
WITH THE KOSA KAI TECHNICALLY POSITIONED ABOVE THE WASHIMINE-GUMI, WE COULD NOT RESIST.



IT WAS MR. BANDO...

...WHO SAVED US.

*A FORMAL SAKE SHARING RITUAL, WHEREBY A YAKUZA OYABUN CREATES A BOND WITH LOWER RANKED KOBUN, THUS CREATING SMALLER GANG AFFILIATIONS WITHIN THE YAKUZA HIERARCHY.





AN
ORGANIZATION
PREPARED FOR
BLOODSHED
WITHOUT
MODERATION
OR
RESTRAINT...

...DRIVEN BY
THEIR VIOLENT
TENDENCIES AND
ANTI-SOCIAL
NATURE FOR
THE CONSTANT
PURSUIT OF
PROFITS.

BALALAIKA
AND...

...HOTEL
MOSCOW.



MR. BANDO
COULD NOT SEE
THEIR TRULY
EVIL WAYS.

THE
DESPERATION
AND DESIRES OF
PEOPLE THAT
WERE FORMED
AND DECAYED IN
A CLOSED OFF
WORLD CALLED
THE SOVIET
UNION.

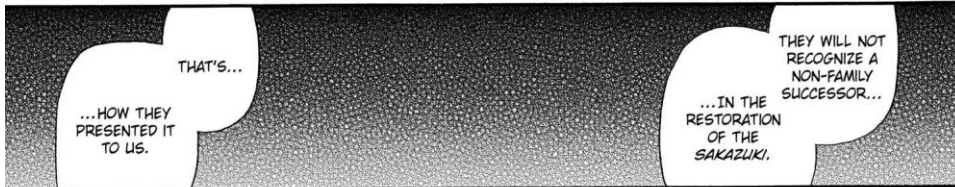
WITH ITS
COLLAPSE, THEY
BARED THEIR
VICIOUS
FANGS...
RUSSIA'S GREAT
DARKNESS.





...DOES IT
HAVE TO BE
YOU?

... WHY...



THAT'S...

...HOW THEY
PRESENTED IT
TO US.

THEY WILL NOT
RECOGNIZE A
NON-FAMILY
SUCCESSOR...

...IN THE
RESTORATION
OF THE
SAKAZUKI.



IT MAY BE
ABSURD, BUT
THAT IS HOW
PEOPLE LIKE US
DO THINGS.

BUT I
FELT THE
SAME
WAY.

IT'S
QUIBBLING
OVER THE
MOST
INSIGNIFICANT
DETAIL NO
MATTER HOW
YOU LOOK
AT IT.



NOT
EVEN
YOU!!

NOBODY
WANTED THIS!
NOT MR.
BANDO! NOT
MR. GIN!

WHAT
THE HELL
KIND OF
EXCUSE
IS THAT?

TM
P

...



NO.

IT'S THE
KOSA KAI
YOU SHOULD
BLAMING.

BUT...

IF I HAD
STOOD UP
EARLIER...

...NONE
OF THIS
WOULD'VE
HAPPENED.

EVERY-
BODY DID
WHATEVER
THEY
COULD...

...TO KEEP
YOU AWAY
FROM THE
FEUD
RIGHT?!

SO
THAT YOU
WOULDN'T
BE IN THIS
POSITION!!

...MAYBE IT
IS THE KOSA
KAI'S FAULT.

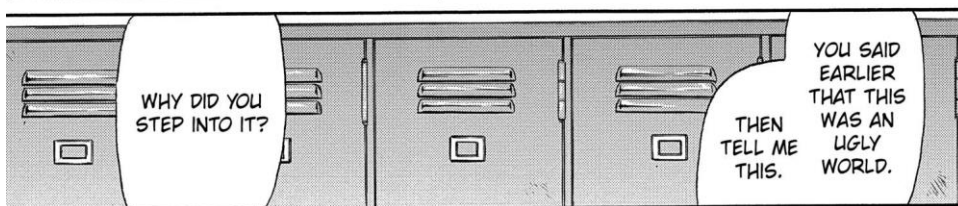
IF WE
VIOLATE THAT,
WE BECOME
THE SAME AS
BALALAIKA.

BUT OUR WORLD
DOES NOT ALLOW
US TO KILL IF IT
MEANS PUTTING
ASIDE HUMANITY
AND NEGLECTING
DUTY.

















SHE

DON'T
COME
NEAR ME.



...I
KNOW.

IT'S SO
FRUSTRATING,
I CAN'T
STAND IT.

BUT IT'S
FRUSTRAT-
ING.



THAT'S
WHY...

I HATE
YOU.



YOU...

FUCKING...
GLUB...

SPL

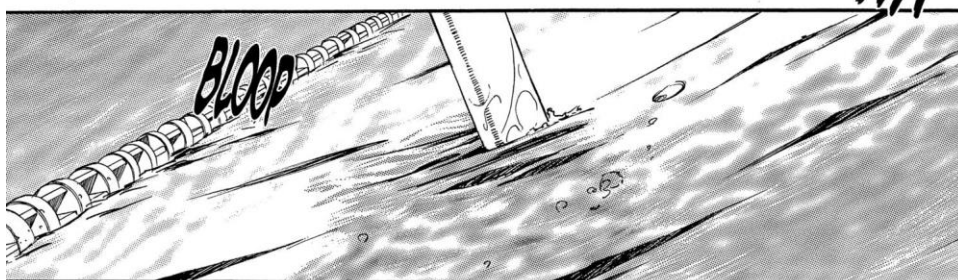
ASH

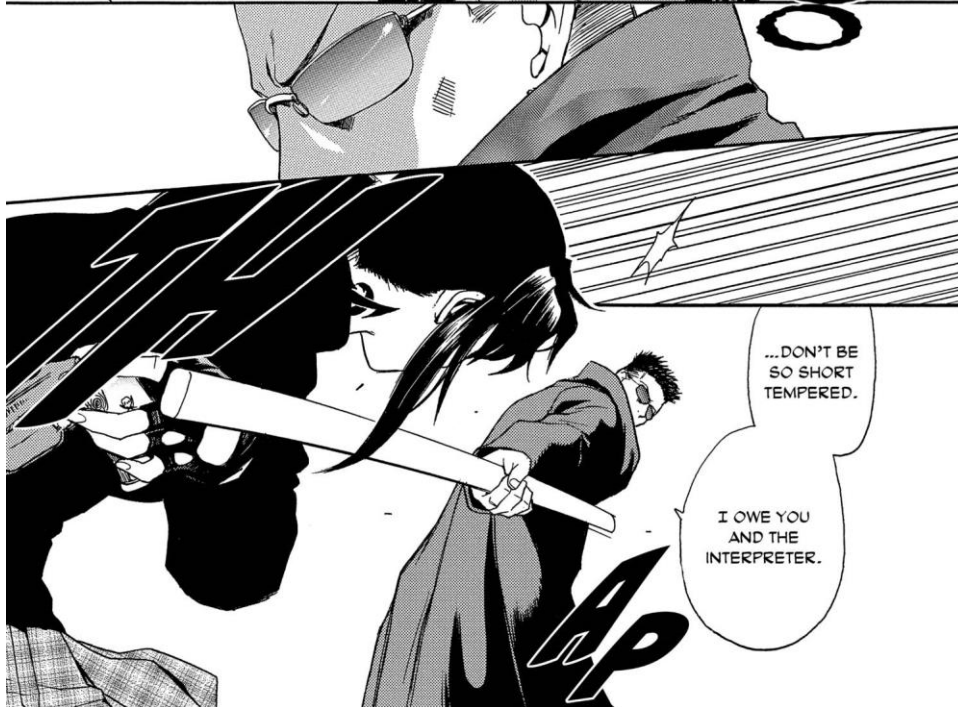
GHA...

BWHA!

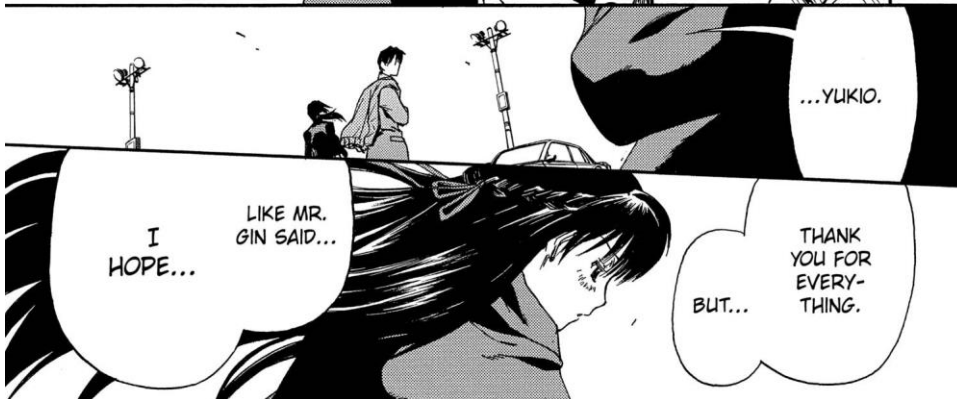
SPSH









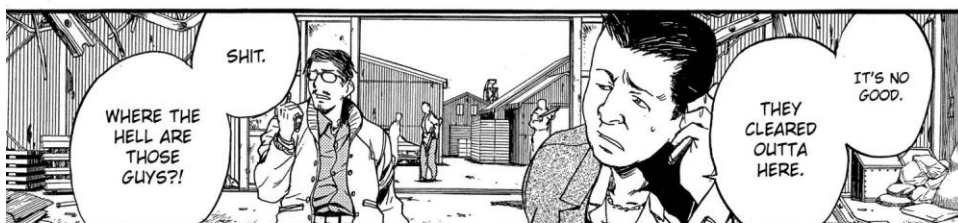






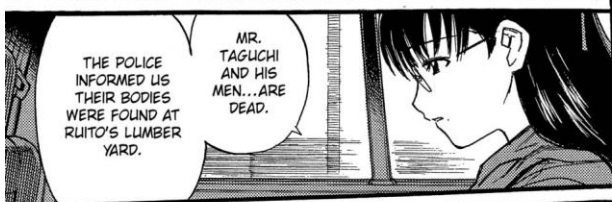
Chapter 33: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise- Pt. XII









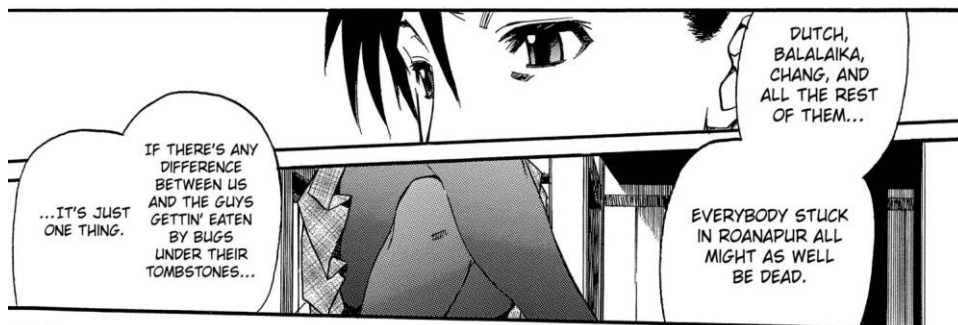


*TERM OF RESPECT FOR A TOP YAKUZA LEADER
**SHORTENED FORM OF BORYOKUDAN TAISAKU HO-ORGANIZED CRIME COUNTERMEASURES LAW, SIMILAR TO THE U.S. RICO ACT.











YOU CAN FIGHT
TILL THE END
OF TIME.

IF YOU LET
THAT ALL
GO...

SOME GUYS
WHO CLING TOO
DEARLY TO THEIR
LIVES LET THE
FEAR GET TO
THEM, THEY
LOSE SIGHT OF
THINGS.



DYING IN
SOME
DIRTY
SWAMP...

IS YOUR
IDEA OF
COOL?

SO...

...



YOU'RE
AWFULLY
SNAPPY
TODAY. WHAT
GIVES?

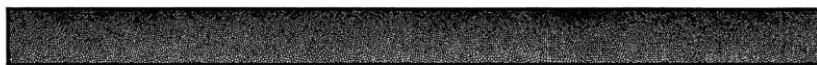
...ROCK.

WHAT'S UP
WITH YOU?



I'M NOT
MAKING THIS
A PLEASANT
EVENING AM I?

I'M
SORRY.





AS YOU'VE POINTED OUT, THAT WAS ALL DONE BY OUR PREVIOUS WAKAGASHIRA*, BANDO. IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS DUE TO OUR NEGLIGENCE.



HMPH!

DON'T KID YOURSELF LITTLE GIRL. WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS...



EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE...

HOW DO YOU PLAN ON CLEANING UP THE MESS BROUGHT ON BY THE RUSSIANS?

THE WASHIMINE WILL RALLY EVERY MAN WE HAVE TO DRIVE THE RUSSIANS OUT.



IT'S NOT JUST US KOSA. THE OTHER OYABUN ON THE MEDIATION COUNCIL WON'T AGREE TO IT.

WE NEED T'KNOW HOW YOU'RE GONNA HANDLE THIS BEFORE WE CAN START TALKING ABOUT A SAKAZUKI!

HOW'RE YOU GONNA CLEAN UP THE WHOLE FUCKIN' MESS?

*UNDERBOSS OF A YAKUZA FAMILY



OR HAVE YOU?

I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT CAUSED YOUR WAKAGASHIRA'S DESPERATE ACT OF SEEKING COOPERATION WITH THEM.

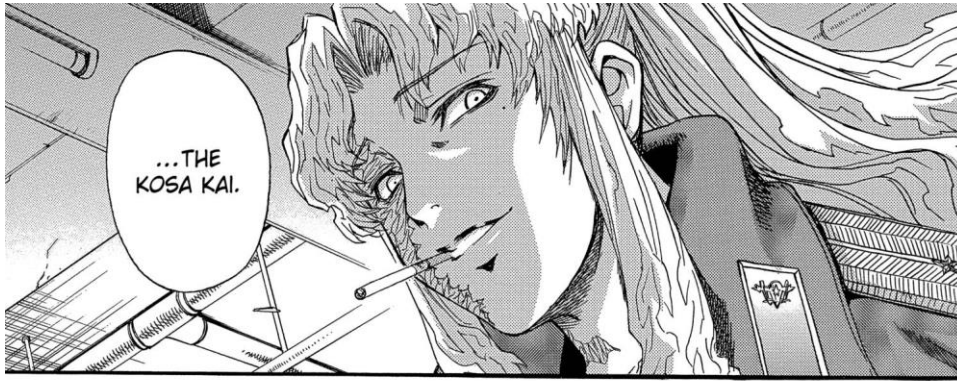
...WITH ALL DUE RESPECT ...











...THE
KOSA KAI.



IF EVERYTHING
GOES WELL,
THERE'LL BE LESS
TO WORRY ABOUT
SO...

...ACTUALLY
DON'T WANT
TO SAVE ME.

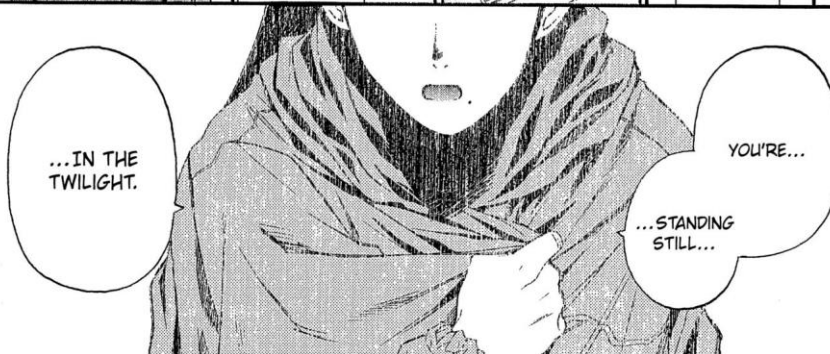
I WAS
THINKING IT
WAS STILL
TOO EARLY
TO CALL IT
QUITS. BUT...

HEY?
ROCK?

YOU JUST
DON'T WANT
TO LOSE THE
LIFE YOU
THOUGHT
YOU LEFT
BEHIND.

I FIGURED IF
THEIR OFFER
WASN'T TOO
ABSURD I'D
GO ALONG
WITH IT.

BECAUSE
YOU...



...IN THE
TWILIGHT.

YOU'RE...

...STANDING
STILL...









LET'S STAY
COOL,
SISTER.

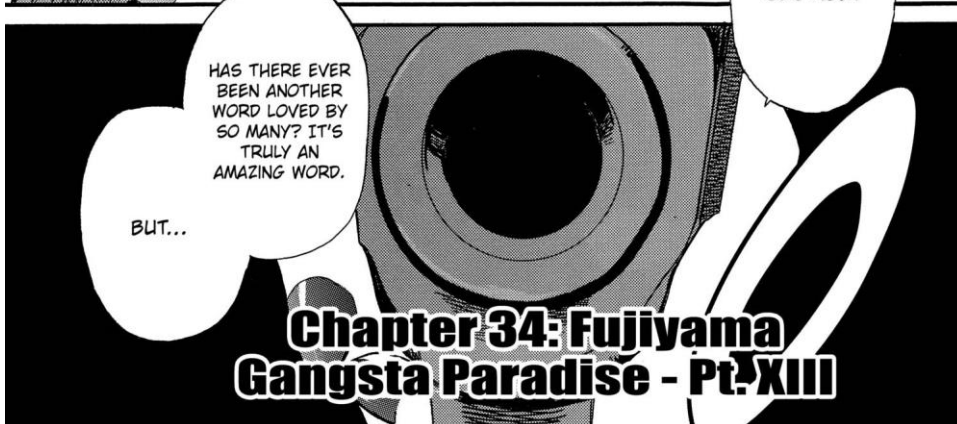
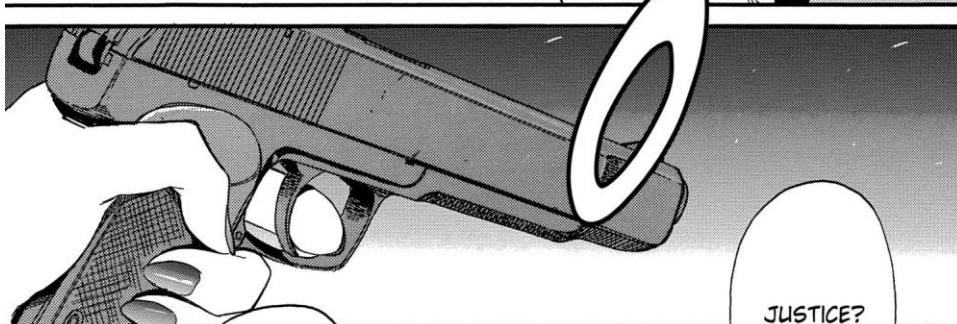
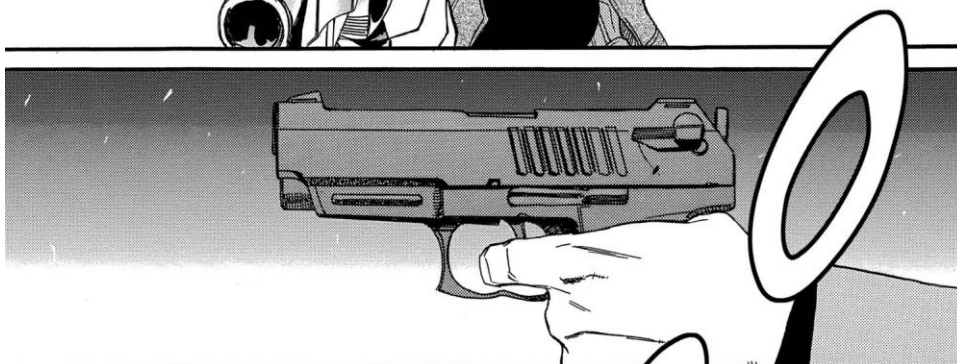
YOU DON'T
WANT A
BLOODY
VALENTINE
DOWN HERE
DO YOU?

STOP
BARKING,
REVVY.

ROCK.

LOOK
AT ME.





Chapter 34: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Pt. XIII



Chapter 34: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Pt. XIII



THIS JUSTICE
YOU SPEAK OF
SMELLS TOO.

IT REEKS
LIKE A
PUDDLE OF
BLOOD, DON'T
YOU THINK?













BUT...

THERE'S NO
WAY OF
PROTECTING
SOMEBODY
WHO JUST
CAN'T WAIT TO
DIE, YOU DUMB
FUCK.

OVER HERE,
I'M YOUR GUN.

I KNOW I
COULD
PROTECT
YOU EVEN
THROUGH
TARAWA
OR THE
ALAMO.



I'D'A POPPED
OFF A FEW
ROUNDS IF IT
WASN'T YOU.

IT'S BEYOND
ANGER. I'M
FURIOUS.

...YOU'RE
ANGRY?



REVVY, I
NEED A
FAVOR.

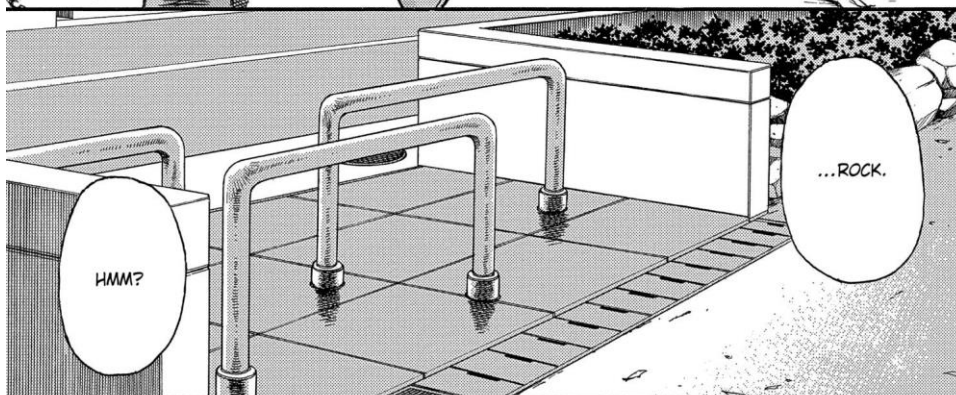
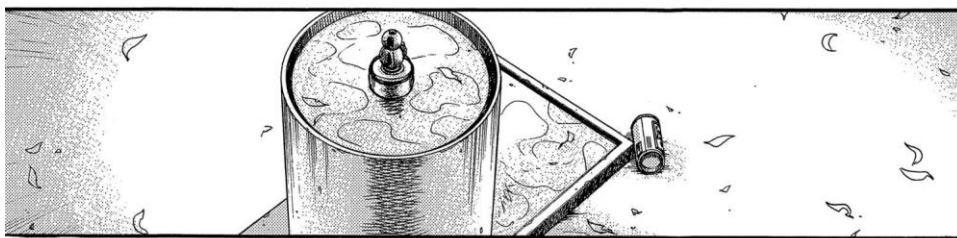
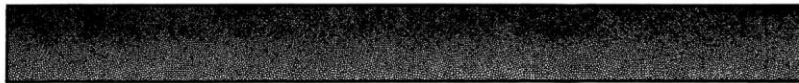
WILL YOU
COME WITH
ME...

BACK TO
MY TOWN.





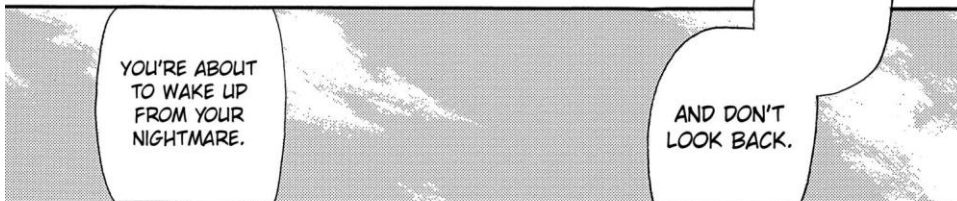








GO.



YOU'RE ABOUT
TO WAKE UP
FROM YOUR
NIGHTMARE.

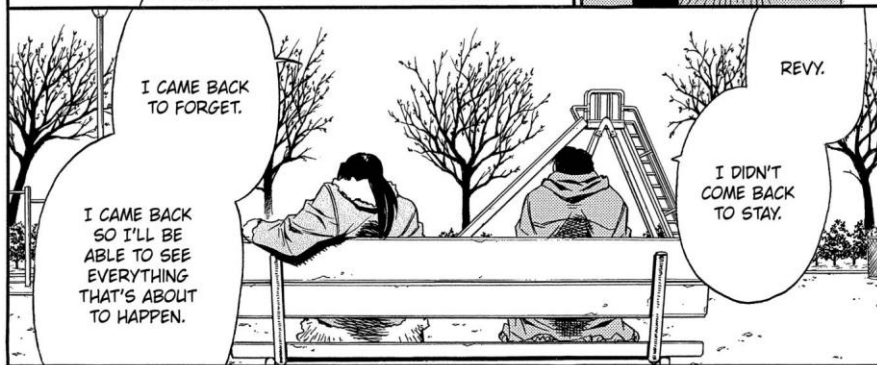
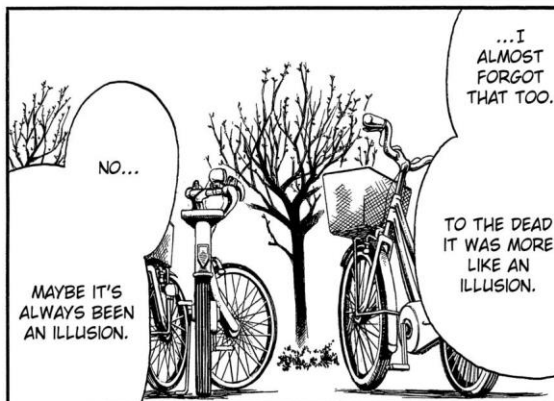
AND DON'T
LOOK BACK.



HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN?
I'M ALREADY
DEAD.

...REVV.

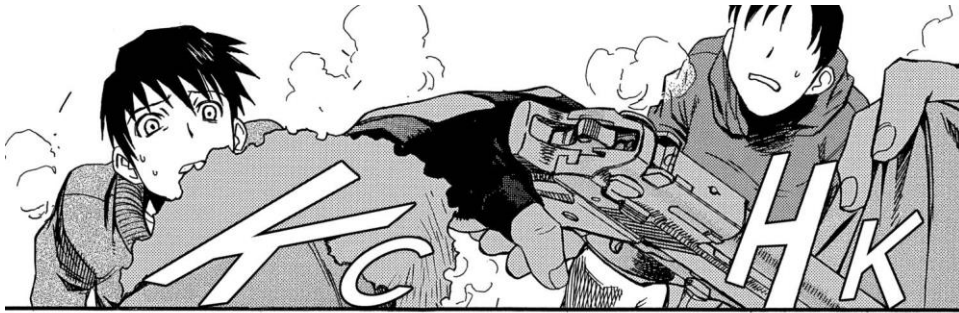
THE MAN I
WAS DIED
THE DAY I
MET YOU.













Chapter 35: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Pt. XIV



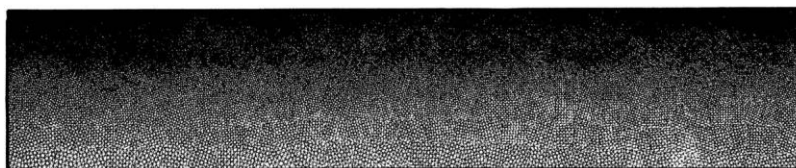


...
AS LONG
AS THE
WASHIMINE
HAS ITS
EMBLEM UP,
WE CAN'T
ACCEPT
DEFEAT.

BUT DRAGGING
THE REMAINING
MEN DOWN
ISN'T RIGHT
EITHER.

I BELIEVE WE
SHOULD GAUGE HOW
THE MEN FEEL ONE
MORE TIME AND
THOSE WHO WANT
TO LEAVE, CAN
LEAVE, AND THOSE
WHO WANT TO STAY,
CAN STAY.

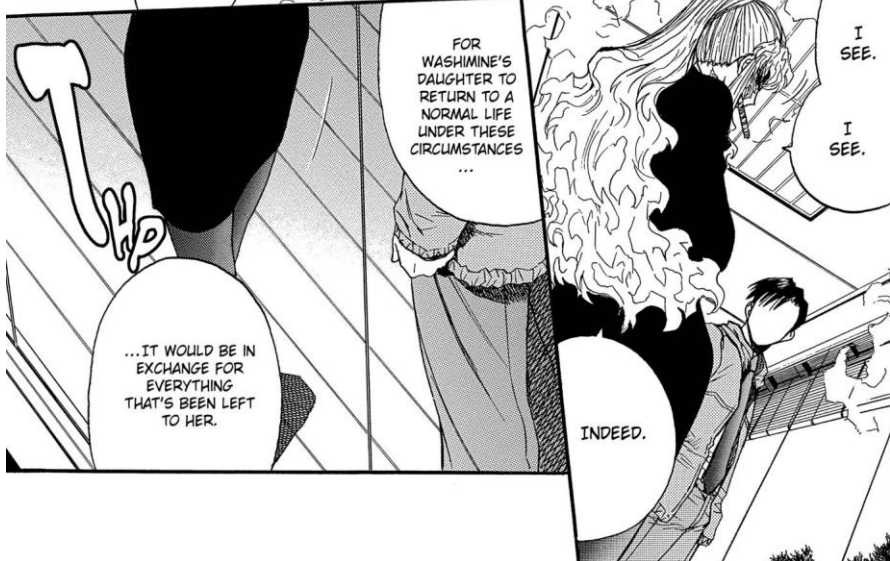
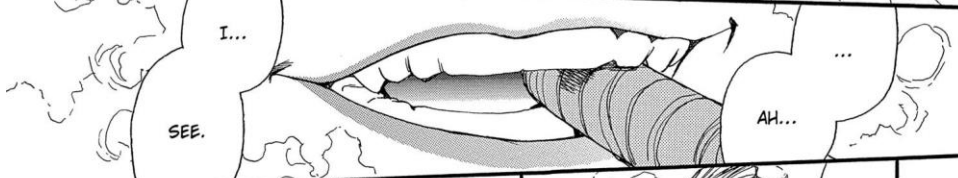














YOU'LL
MAKE A
GOOD...

YOU'RE A
BAD MAN,
ROCK.

YOU'VE MADE
THE RIGHT
DECISION.

...VILLAIN.









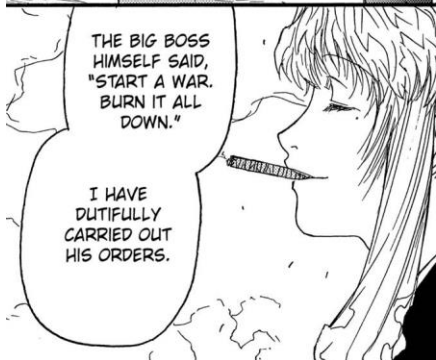




WELL THAT
DOES IT.

I CAN'T WORK WITH SCUM
WHO SHAMELESSLY SPORT
SUCH SHODDY HARDWARE.













AS OF THIS
MOMENT, HOTEL
MOSCOW IS
DECLARING A
UNILATERAL
CEASEFIRE.

TELL THE
WASHIMINE
GIRL...

ROCK.

TELL HER TO
PACK HER
THINGS AND
LEAVE TOWN
BEFORE
SUNDOWN.

AS LONG AS SHE
DOESN'T SHOW
HERSELF IN
FRONT OF
US, WE WILL
GUARANTEE
HER LIFE.

Chapter 36: Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise - Pt. XV





Замолчите!
(SILENCE!)



Мы с вами еще
не закончили.
(YOUR BUSINESS IS WITH ME.)

Не отвлекайтесь на
мелкую на шестерку.
(DON'T BOTHER WITH THE LITTLE FISH.)

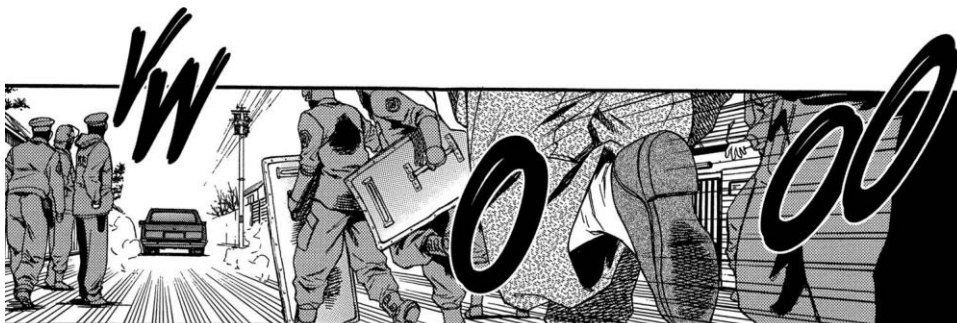


MISS
VLADILENA.

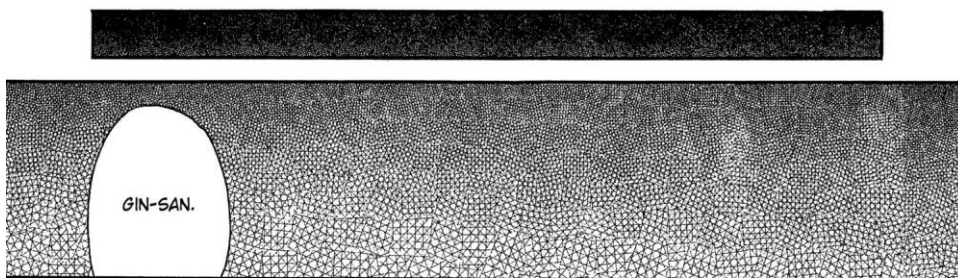
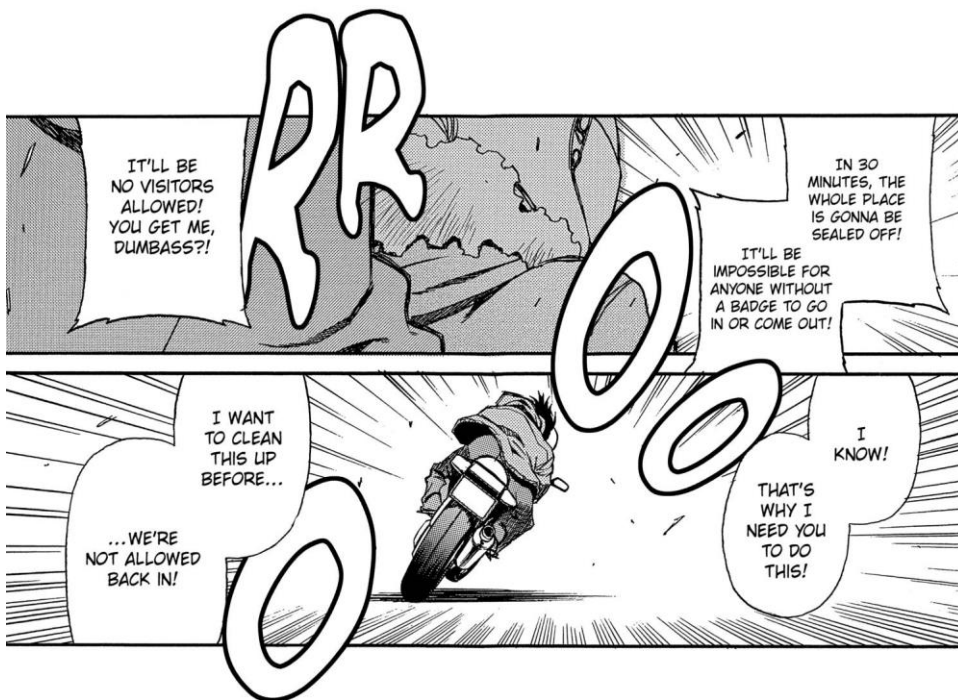
SORRY TO
KEEP YOU
WAITING
MA'AM.

THE
AMBASSADOR
IS WAITING
FOR YOU IN
MAMIANA-CHO.





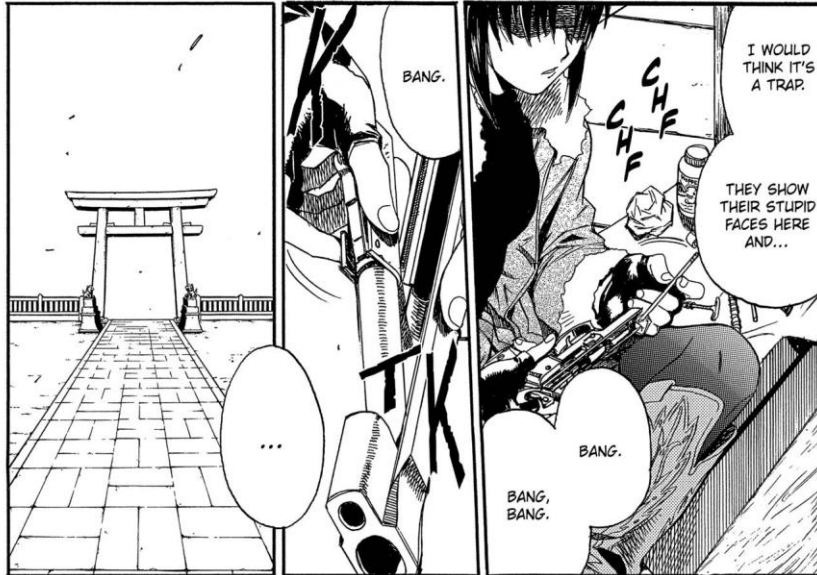
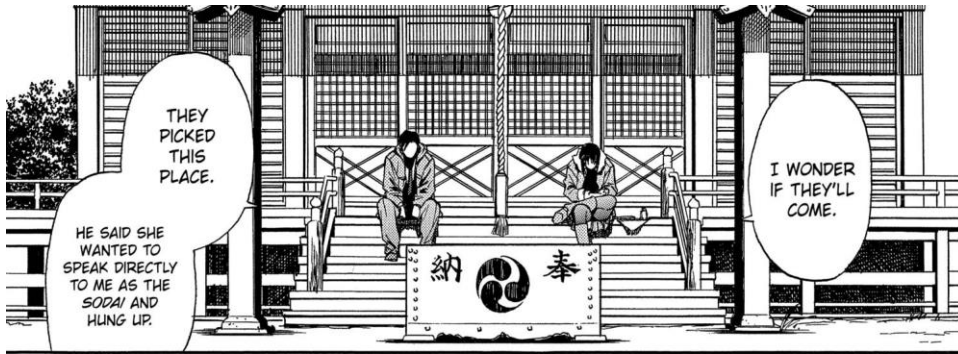


















...ANY KIND OF
GUARANTEE?

...
HOW IS
THAT...



...THE
WASHIMINE-GUMI
IS EXHAUSTED
TO THE POINT
WHERE WE CAN
NO LONGER
MAINTAIN OUR-
SELVES AS AN
ORGANIZATION.

BUT...

THE WASHIMINE
STILL HAS ITS
EMBLEM, ITS
SIGN. IT HAS
NOT FALLEN TO
THE GROUND YET.

BREAKING
EVERY
PROMISE,
BETRAYING,
HURTING,
SPITTING ON
HONOR.

AND YOU'RE
ASKING ME
TO TRUST
SOMEBODY
LIKE THAT?





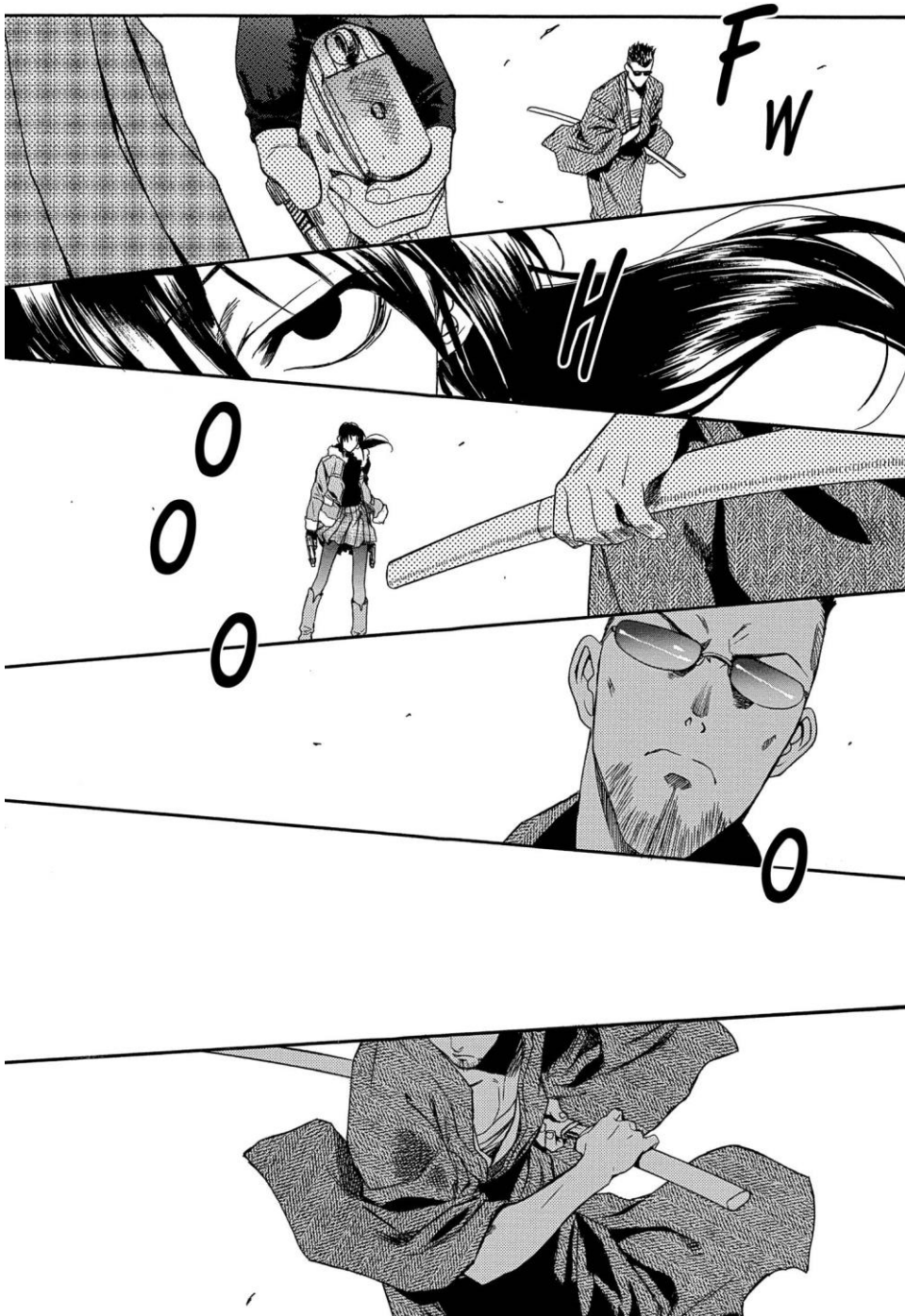
*LITERALLY, "THOSE WHO WALK THE EXTREME PATH", GANGSTERS





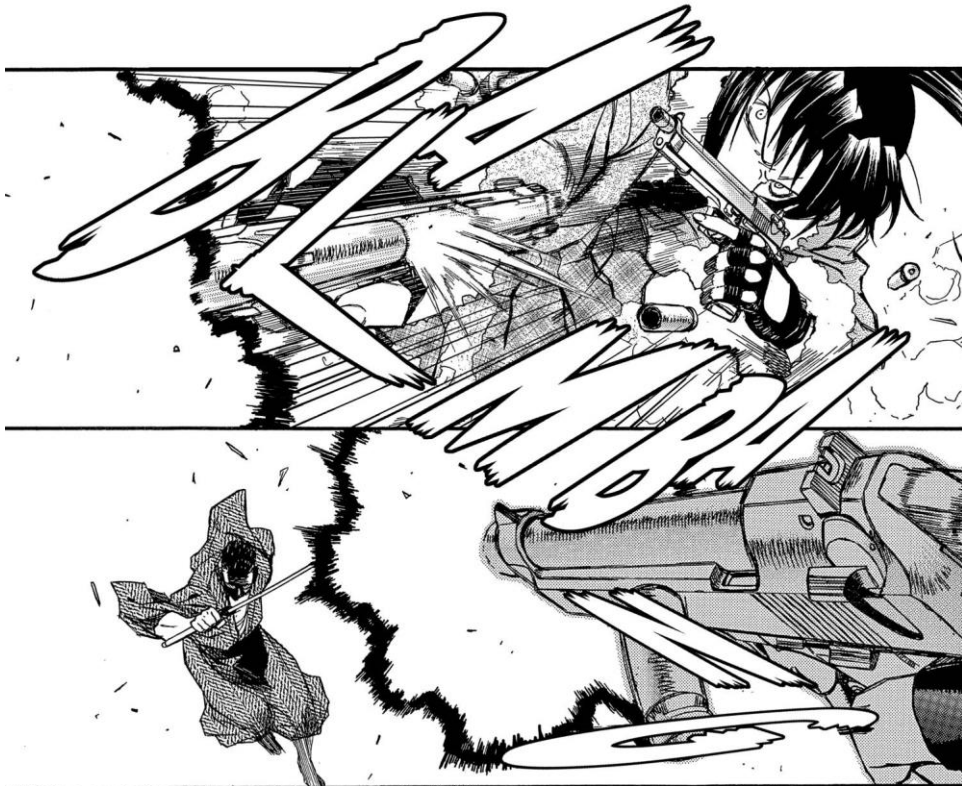








**Chapter 37:
Fujiyama Gangsta
Paradise - Pt. XVI**













YUKIO.



...YOU
WOULD
CHOOSE
THAT PATH.

THERE ARE
WAYS FOR
YOU NOT TO
BECOME LIKE
BALALAIIKA. I
THOUGHT...

I....

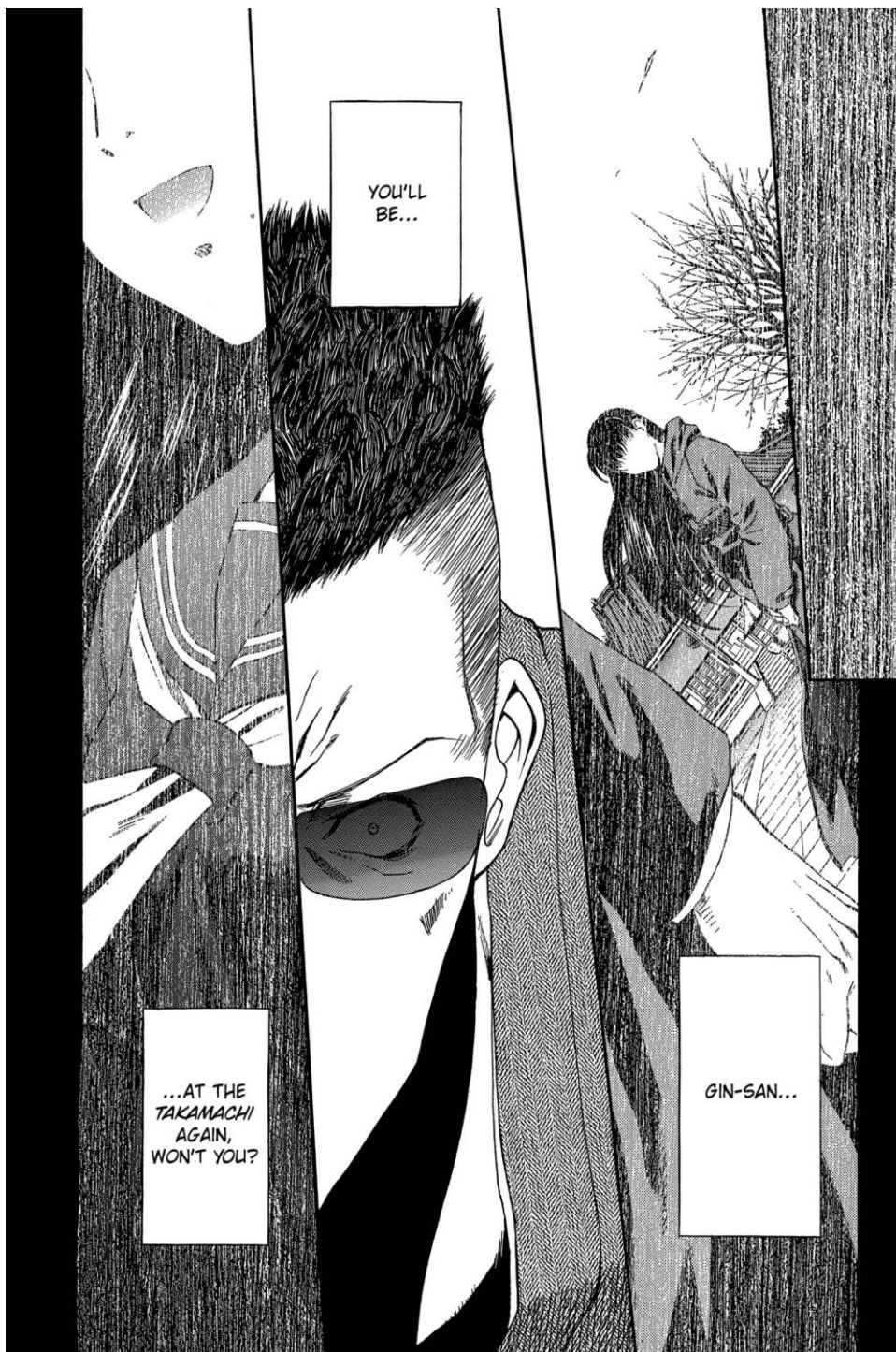
I HAD THE
WRONG
IDEA.











YOU'LL
BE...

...AT THE
TAKAMACHI!
AGAIN,
WON'T YOU?

GIN-SAN...

...LIVING
THROUGH
THIS, DIDN'T
YOU?

YOU
JUST
THOUGHT
ABOUT...

I

ZHP

THE ONLY REWARD FOR PEOPLE LIKE US...

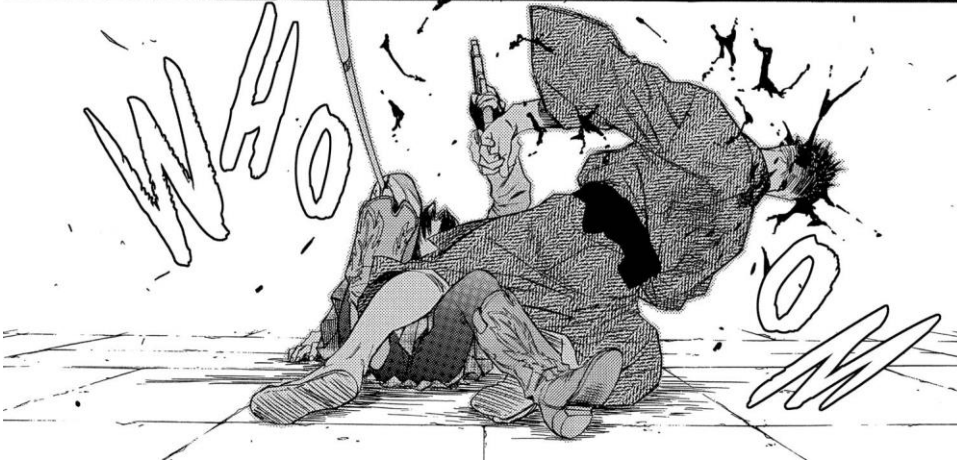
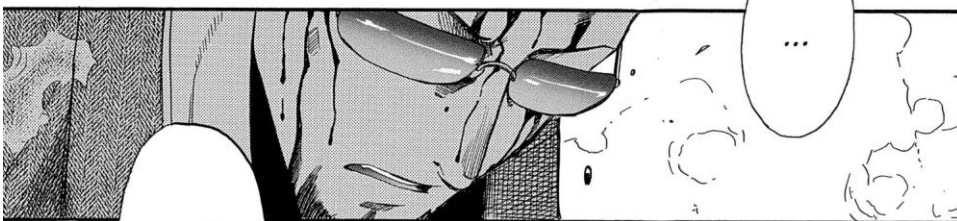
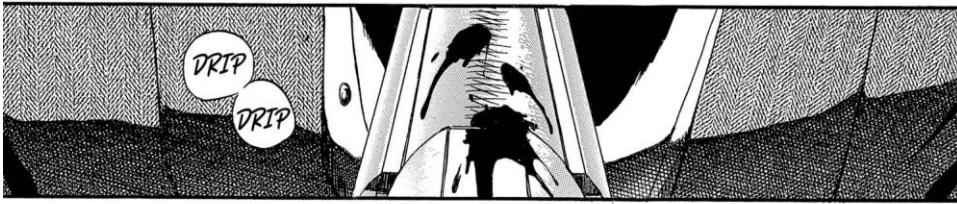
IS A SHALLOW GRAVE.

THAT'S ALL.

KCH

THAT'S
ALL.







DON'T TALK.

GP
AB

THIS IS GONNA HURT A LITTLE.

...DREW THOSE WORDS OUT OF HER... WAS THE REAL BULLET... IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT, I'D BE THE ONE ROLLING IN A-

ROCK...

THANKS MAN... WHATEVER IT WAS THAT...

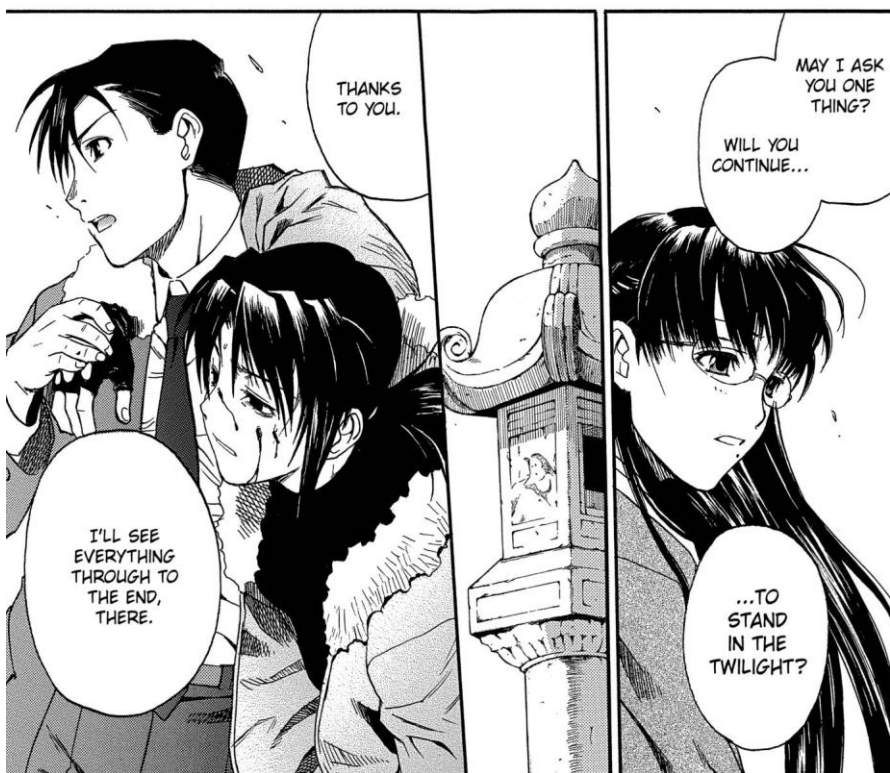
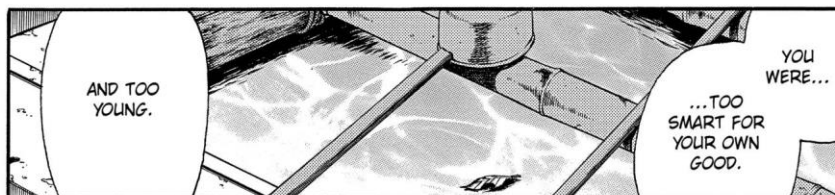
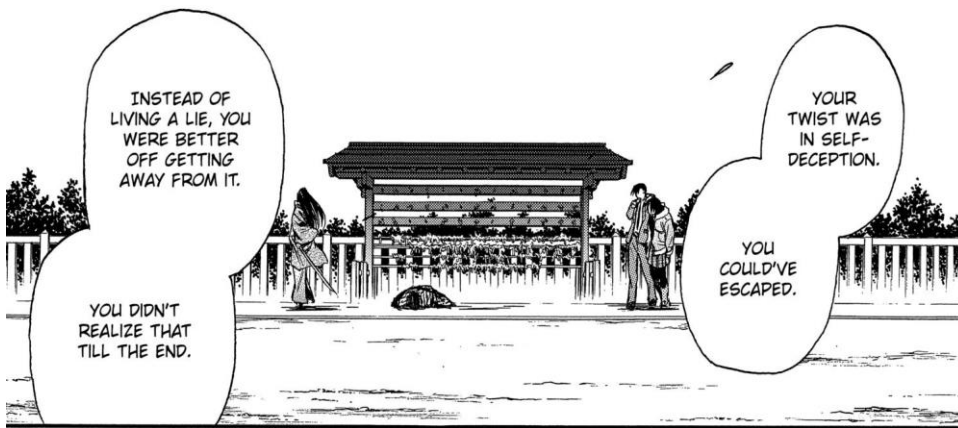
REVVY.

UGH...

...I'M ALL RIGHT, I'M ALL RIGHT...









ROCK!

IT'LL
SCAR YOU.
DON'T
LOOK.



PLEASE
TAKE THIS
MESSAGE
TO
BALALAIKA.



I'M VERY
SORRY
FOR YOUR
TROUBLES.

WITH THIS
ACT, ALL
GRIEVANCES
WILL BE LAID
TO REST.



...



PK

ROCK!

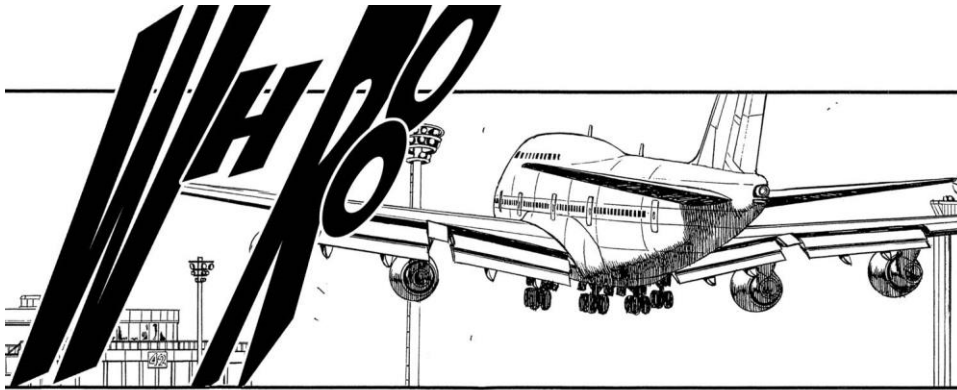
DON'T
LOOK!

"TO THE PLACE
YOU WILL ONE
DAY COME."

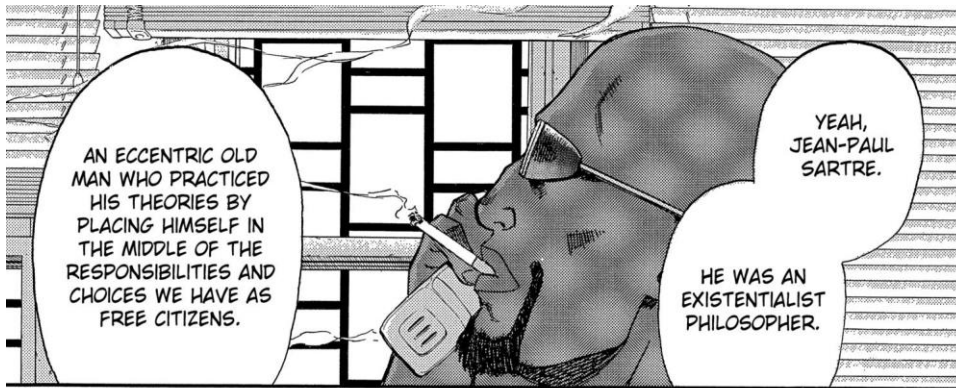
"I WILL BE
WAITING."











AN ECCENTRIC OLD
MAN WHO PRACTICED
HIS THEORIES BY
PLACING HIMSELF IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE
RESPONSIBILITIES AND
CHOICES WE HAVE AS
FREE CITIZENS.

YEAH,
JEAN-PAUL
SARTRE.

HE WAS AN
EXISTENTIALIST
PHILOSOPHER.



WHAT
ABOUT
IT?

I'M ACTUALLY
QUITE THE
INTELLECT. I
KNOW ABOUT
EVERYTHING
FROM MAKING
RAIN TO
HUNTING
ELEPHANTS.

TAKK

YOU SEEM
TO KNOW
A LOT
ABOUT
HIM.



SO...

... SAY
SAYONARA,
FUJIYAMA.

TIME FOR
OUR FLIGHT,
PARTNER.

THIS IS
YOUR LAST
LOOK AT
JAPAN.

NOTHING.

IT JUST...
CLEARED UP
SOMETHING
FOR ME.
THANKS.

WHAT'S
WRONG?

ROCK?

ALL
RIGHT.

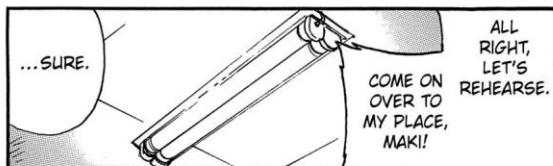
I GOT
A COLD
BALI-HAI
WAITING
FOR YOU
HERE.



Black Lagoon Volume 5 – The End –

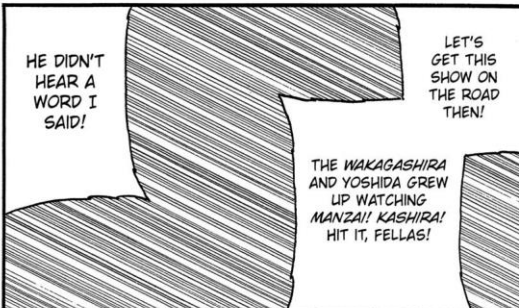


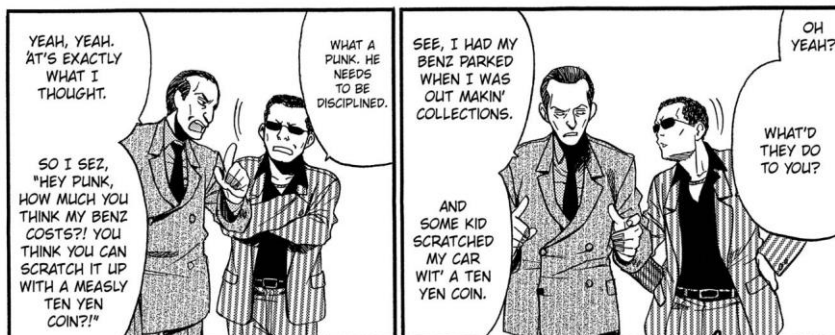
~Go For It! Manzai Grand Prix!~



*MANZAI = JAPANESE STAND-UP COMEDY

By Rei Hiroe







CLOSING WORDS

HIROE HERE. IT'S VOLUME 5.

THE PACE OF THE RELEASE HAS BEEN SPED
UP. IT WAS KINDA FORCED.

ANYWAY, THANK YOU FOR STAYING WITH ME
THROUGH THE LONG AND HEAVY JAPAN
STORY-ARC. THERE'S A LOT I WANT TO SAY,
BUT I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY IT WOULD BE
GREAT IF YOU COULD STICK WITH ME THROUGH
THIS SMOKE-FILLED STORY.

I'D LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING:

MY EDITOR, MR. WOO.

ASSISTANTS B-RIVER (THANK YOU) ITAKO
TODA
AZUMA

COOPERATION
ENGLISH/TITLES: DANIEL KANEMITSU
RUSSIAN/MILITARY HISTORY: TOSHIRO
ISHIYAMA/ITSUKI AKIBA
ARMS MAGAZINE

SPECIAL THANKS
DIRECTOR SUNAO KATABUCHI
MO'CHII
KEMU KEMU AND GASHIGE
NEYAN
OGAWA-CHI, BIH, AND MESUKINOKO
OGURA
AND YOU FOR READING THIS COMIC.

I'LL SEE YOU IN VOLUME 6.

REI HIROE

Volume 5, with surprisingly little time in between.
Where's the sailor theme on the cover?! Liar!!



Rei Hiroe was born on December 5, 1972. After working at a game company, he debuted as a mangaka in 1993. He has been an active illustrator and dojinshi, and has created many titles released through the dojin community. He is best known for his works, *Hisuikyokitan* and *SHOOK UP!* (both currently available in new formats published by Shogakukan), and his first artwork collection, *Barrage*.

Editor's Note



Revy's Guns – Sword Cutlass

The Beretta M92 pistol was officially adopted as the primary sidearm of the U.S. military in 1985, replacing the venerable .45 cal Colt M1911A1. The design is very popular with police and military forces around the world and has been licensed in numerous countries, notably Brazil, which produces the Taurus PT-92. The M92 uses the 9mm Parabellum cartridge (9x19mm) and has a 15-round magazine.

The pirates of old used swords and cutlasses to take over their oceangoing prey. Revy, a modern-day pirate, is fully up-to-date, wielding her *Praiychat Sword Cutlass Special*, a pair of customized Beretta M92's. Revy's gunsmith has given each gun a longer barrel and slide, and the safety has also been modified. The grips are made of ivory and have a skull engraved on them. Custom modifications like these cost a lot but improve the fit of the weapon to the user and her preferred shooting style. Revy might be cheap, but when it comes to the tools of her trade she obviously doesn't compromise.

Ginji's Sword – Shirasaya

In Japanese *shirasaya* (白鞘) literally means “white scabbard” and is the traditional way to store a katana. It consists of a simple, featureless wooden scabbard and hilt. The Japanese katana of course has a much more decorative hilt and scabbard, but keeping these attached when not on display can damage the blade, thus specialized storage furniture is necessary.

Ginji's use of a *shirasaya* type sword continues the cinematic tradition of their use by the yakuza. In Japan, real swords with a cutting edge are strictly regulated and registered. By utilizing *shirasaya*, yakuza avoid legitimate sword handlers and therefore any unwelcome paperwork and scrutiny by the law. These types of swords are also generally cheaper due to their lack of ornamentation, and the smooth scabbard makes the *shirasaya* much easier to carry concealed under a coat. Not that Ginji needs to hide it—if he's got it in his hand you know he means business!



BLACK LAGOON

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VOL. 5

VIZ Signature Edition

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REI HIROE

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Lyrics by Guitar Wolf and Toru Aoyagi
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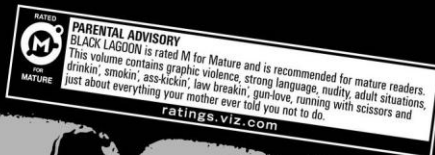
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